

Strategies to Address Children's Learning when they are Dual Language Learners. A Self-Reflection Tool

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Know your Children

- ❖ Culture of the child and family
- ❖ Family priorities, concerns and decisions
- ❖ Language (s) spoke at home and at school
- ❖ Strengths the child brings to the learning opportunities you provide
- ❖ Prior experiences of the child and family
- ❖ Other challenges
- ❖ Where the child is in learning English as a second language... A starting point

Strategies:

Responsive Interactions

- ☑ Start with what the child knows...at level of comprehension if instruction in English...
- ☑ Start slowly
- ☑ Use 'wait time'
- ☑ Scaffold communication with appropriate comments and questions
- ☑ Utilize peer interactions
- ☑ Model, expand, and extend language

Environment and Expectations

- ☑ Where are pictures that the children can relate/resonate to? Family, Culture and Home
- ☑ Create meaningful and engaging learning areas... "Hands on"
- ☑ Develop a schedule that promotes child engagement and success, "Predictability" is key!
- ☑ Plan for transitions ... "Preparation" is helpful!
- ☑ Engage children in constructing classroom expectations " A Learning Community"
- ☑ Enhance children's emotional literacy ... "create trust and conflict resolution strategies" (e.g. Peace Table)
- ☑ Create small collaborative versus competitive learning groups

Specific Strategies to Introduce Stories and New Information:

- ☑ Use actions (TPR) and illustrations to reinforce oral statements ... provide "high context"
- ☑ Prime the pump...review specific vocabulary prior to reading
- ☑ Use visual prompts, facial expressions, gesture...these are more effective than just repeating commands
- ☑ Ask for completion versus production; choose answers, cloz technique versus generation of answers depending upon level of second language acquisition and to address "affective filter"/ anxiety
- ☑ Model correct usage rather than "correct" errors
- ☑ Use visual aids and multiple modalities in interactive story book reading

- ✔ (e.g. print referencing, show illustrations, use prompts to engage children in interaction)
- ✔ Say it with meaning: explain, define, restate, and paraphrase

Selected References

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Web sites

- ❖ www.colorincolorado.org/ Colorin Colorado
- ❖ www.puentes culturales.com